

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
VERMONT**

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

General

These construction specifications set forth the minimum requirements for installation of the practice which is shown on the drawings. The items checked on the Table of Contents (Misc-B) pertain to your practice and are submitted with the drawings as the construction specifications for this practice. The practice shall be constructed to the lines and grades as shown on the drawings using the construction specifications that were specially developed for this practice.

Responsibilities

Owner/Operator:

The Owner/Operator is the person who is the official spokesman for the project. He/she enters into all contractual agreements, insures construction is in accordance to the requirements as set forth in the plans, obtains all permits necessary for construction and is financially responsible for the project. The Owner/Operator also agrees to properly maintain this practice for the expected lifespan.

Technician:

The technician is the NRCS representative who has the authority to review the project during construction and take necessary measurements to insure that all work is in compliance with the construction plans.

Contractor:

The contractor is the individual who is in agreement with the owner/operator for installation of the practice as set forth in the technical requirements for the project. The designated contractor is ultimately responsible for the work of any sub-contractors.

The contractor will be responsible for contacting "Dig Safe" prior to any excavation activities. The contractor shall also be responsible for contacting both the Owner/Operator and NRCS immediately when unforeseen conditions arise. Any required earthfill or other testing requiring an outside lab or contractor shall be arranged by the contractor at the specified time intervals.

Upon completion of work the contractor may be asked to sign a "Certification of Installation" to certify that all practices have been installed in accordance to NRCS plans and specifications.

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Constructions Plans

Specifications:

The construction specifications describe quality of work which is to be done. The specifications may also reference a commercial standard such as the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM, which is identifiable for all products or procedures where referenced. These commercial specifications are commonly recognized within the industry. If a conflict arises between the drawings and specifications, the specification governs the work or product.

Drawings:

The drawings are a visual representation of the project which show the location and describe the work to be done. The drawings include plan views, sections, profile details and notes which are necessary to supplement the construction specifications for a site specific installation.

Cost Estimates:

Cost estimates for this practice are based on national averages throughout the construction industry provided by RS Means, Kingston, MA; prices provided by local vendors or suppliers; or costs based on practices installed in previous years. These average cost are for estimating purposes only and should not be shown or given to the contractor. The estimated cost is based on quantities calculated for this specific design. Actual construction quantities may vary if the practice is changed during construction or differing site conditions are encountered (i.e., bedrock, excessive moisture, etc.).

It is the landowner's responsibility to contact one or more contractors and obtain a contractor's cost estimate. Prices may vary from place to place and contractor to contractor. It is best to obtain estimates from several qualified contractors before selecting someone to construct the practice. The Natural Resources Conservation Service does not guarantee cost estimates.

Permits

All permits and/or easements that are applicable for the construction and/or operation of this practice are the responsibility of the landowner and shall be available for review by the NRCS prior to the start of construction.

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Public and Private Utilities

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) makes no representation as to the location or existence of public or private utilities in the vicinity of investigations or construction operations conducted through its programs.

The NRCS will not be held responsible for damage to utilities or accidents involving utilities that occur during the investigation or construction operations. To prevent damage to telephone, gas, water or other underground facilities, contact the Dig Safe Center. Call toll free 1-888-344-7233.

If the landowner/operator knows of the existence of underground utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work area it is their responsibility to notify the NRCS so that appropriate action can be implemented. It shall be the excavating contractor's responsibility to contact "Dig Safe" prior to start of construction.

Pre-Construction Meeting

Construction of the practice or practices shall **NOT** start before a thorough "sit down" pre-construction meeting is held between the Owner/Operator, Contractor and the NRCS representative to go over the plans, specifications and other details of the project.

Basis of Acceptance

The acceptance of the installation will be by inspection and review for conformance with the site specific drawings and construction specifications for this practice. Upon completion of work the contractor may be asked to sign a "Certification of Installation" to certify that all work has been done to NRCS plans and specifications.

Failure to install a practice in accordance to the plans and specifications or contacting NRCS before or during construction of a practice could warrant forfeiture of cost share money.